



# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING & GENERAL SERVICES

SPECIAL DISTRICTS DIVISION

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### MD-46 Ahwahnee Water System Has Levels of Arsenic, Gross Alpha, and Uranium Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Results of samples taken from your water system for 2008-09 showed:

- **Arsenic** levels ranging up to 11.7 This is above the MCL of 10  $\mu\text{g/l}$ .
- **Gross Alpha** levels ranging up to 29 pCi/L, this is above the MCL of 15 pCi/L
- **Uranium** levels ranging up to 31  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , this is above the MCL of 20  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water) for drinking purposes.**
- The water may be used for bathing, washing dishes, washing clothes and watering the yard at no risk.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

#### What does this mean?

- **This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.** While at times some of the sources exceed the MCL for these contaminants, the blending of the water in the system lowers these levels.
- However, *some people who drink water containing **arsenic** in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk to getting cancer.*

- Both the **Gross Alpha's** and **Uranium** occur naturally in water due to erosion of granite rock. The **Gross Alpha's** are a type of radiation emitted known as **alpha** radiation. *Some people who drink water containing **alpha** emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*
- *Some people who drink water containing **Uranium** in excess of the MCL over many years may have kidney problems or an increased risk of getting cancer.*

### What happened? What is being done?

We have increased the frequency of sampling and are blending the sources of water to lower the level in of these contaminants to a level below the MCL. If we are able to do this reliably this notice may be lifted. With the blending we have been able to lower the arsenic level to 8.1 to 8.7  $\mu\text{g/l}$  which is below the MCL of 10  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . We are looking into other sources of water and treatment in the event that blending does not resolve the problem. You will get this notice quarterly until these issues are resolved

This notice is being sent to you by Madera County Special Districts Maintenance District -46 Ahwahnee Water System

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS: Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property

LPA Water System ID#: **2000293**. Date distributed: January 2010 .

For more information you may contact the Special Districts Office at (559) 675-7820 or at 2037W. Cleveland Ave., Madera, CA 93637. You may also find useful information on this topic at the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.



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Special Districts Manager

Cc: Environmental Health  
District File